

## **BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE'S WEST MESA SUBCOMMITTEE**

January 25, 2017

Honorable Mayor Kevin Faulconer & Members of the City Council  
City of San Diego  
220 C Street,  
San Diego, California 92101

West Mesa Subcommittee Letter In Support Establishing A Noise Buffer and Noise Decibel Limit Along Sixth Avenue in Bankers Hill/Park West:

Dear Mayor Faulconer & Members of the City Council:

As stated in the Uptown Community Plan (2017): "Noise and amplification associated with special events that take place on the west side of Balboa Park present serious challenges for the neighborhoods of Bankers Hill/Park West." In late 2009, the West Mesa Committee of the Balboa Park Committee prepared a report entitled "Balboa Park Special Events on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue & the West Mesa; Sharing Boundaries with the Community". The report was subsequently adopted by the Balboa Park Committee, and submitted to the city for implementation.

In November of 2016, the City Council approved an update to the Uptown Community Plan. In the update Uptown Plan's Noise Element, on page NE-158; four of the policy recommendations are:

**NE-21-1:** "Consider the establishment of a 'buffer zone' between the location of special events and Sixth Avenue" in Balboa Park";

**NE-1-22:** "Relocate sound stages and amplification equipment away from Sixth Avenue";

**NE-1.23:** "Apply noise decibel monitoring to public address systems for announcements and all sound equipment used by musicians and other performers utilizing amplified sound";

**NE-1.25:** "Monitor sound levels at special events to ensure that noise does not exceed the allowed noise level as specified in the noise ordinance".

At its January 17, 2017 meeting, the West Mesa Subcommittee passed the following motion ( by 8-0 vote) with the intent to implement the recommendations of the Uptown Community Plan Noise Element and West Mesa Subcommittee's Special Event Report:.

1.) That sound systems for any special events on the West Mesa of Balboa Park be placed at least 50 feet back (east) of the east curb of Sixth Avenue. This will create a 50-foot buffer zone between amplified sound equipment and Sixth Avenue, reducing unsafe noise levels in the adjacent community;

2.) That the measured noise level from amplified sound at special events in Balboa Park be limited to 70 decibels at the east curb of Sixth Avenue;

Sincerely Yours,

Don Liddell,  
Co-Chair  
West Mesa Subcommittee  
Of the Balboa Park Committee

Cc  
Balboa Park Committee  
West Mesa Subcommittee  
Park & Recreation Department  
City Councilmember Chris Ward  
Uptown Planners